

REMARKS

These remarks and the accompanying amendments are responsive to the Office Action made final mailed November 2, 2004 (hereinafter referred to as "the Office Action"). The shortened statutory period for response expired on February 2, 2005. A petition and fee for a one-month extension of time extending the period for response until March 2, 2005 accompanies this response. Also, to secure entry and consideration of the claim amendments made herewith, this amendment is filed with an accompanying Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Reconsideration and allowance for the above-identified application are now respectfully requested in light of these remarks and the accompanying amendments. Claims 1, 8 and 15-25 remain pending although all are amended, of which only Claims 1, 8 and 25 are independent claims.

As recited in each of the independent Claims 1, 8 and 25, a base station, system or method includes a means for (or step of) broadcasting characteristics a private network service offered by the base station, and registering (and managing) addresses of mobile stations that use the base station as the private network. The system, station, or method then decides whether the terminating address of a received packet is registered in a means for registering and managing, and decides whether the packet is to be transmitted to a mobile station or the carrier network based on the characteristics of the private network service and whether the terminating address of the packet is registered.

In this way, since a base station broadcasts characteristics of the private network service, a mobile station can search for a base station and make registration, and thereby the mobile station can receive a service (see, e.g., page 11, line 21 to page 12, line 10 of the applicants' specification).

In contrast, United States patent number 6,070,081 issued to Takahashi et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Takahashi") discloses a mobile communication system in which (in an area where any public base station is not built) a portable (mobile) radio telephone equipment can make connection to a public network by using a radio base station 4 and an exchange (PBX) 3 of the system in which the portable radio telephone equipment is not being registered (see Figure 8 etc.).

A portable radio telephone which is being registered in the system can make connection within the system. However, Takahashi does not disclose that characteristics a private network service is broadcasted, and that whether the packet is to be transmitted to a mobile station or the carrier network is decided based on the broadcasted characteristics of the private network service and whether the terminating address of the packet is registered.

United States patent number 5,745,850 issued to Aldermeshian et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Aldermeshian") discloses a mechanism in which a call is received by terminals 131, 132, when the user is near to a building 130, and the call is received by a cellular phone 100, when the user is far from the building 130 (see Figure 1 etc.). However, Aldermeshian et al. also does not disclose that characteristics of a private network service are broadcasted, and that whether the packet is to be transmitted to a mobile station or the carrier network is decided based on the broadcasted characteristics of the private network service and whether the terminating address of the packet is registered.

Therefore, each of the independent Claims 1, 8 and 25 are novel and non-obvious over Takahashi and Aldermeshian, either singly or in combination. The remaining claims are dependent from one or these respective independent claims, and are thus novel and non-obvious over Takahashi and Aldermeshian, either singly or in combination, at least for the same reasons as their corresponding independent claim.

Furthermore, there would be no motivation or teaching to combined these references. In the applicants' response to the prior Office Action of July 22, 2004, the applicants asserted that Takahashi does not disclose that the radio base station manages registration of portable radio telephone equipments that use the radio base station as a private network (for making connection within the system). The applicants also assert that Takahashi does not not disclose that the radio base station transmits a signal to a portable radio telephone equipment or the public network based on registration of mobile stations.

In page 6, lines 20-23 of the Office Action, with regard to claims 1, 8 and 15-24, it seems that the Office Action concedes that Takahashi does not disclose that the above-mentioned processes are conducted in the radio base station.

In page 7, lines 1-11 of the Office Action, with references to the new reference (Aldermeshian et al.), the Office Action states that since Aldermeshian discloses a base station that includes the capabilities of a private branch exchange, registering portable devices and managing calls related to those portable devices (column 11, line 53 through column 12, line 9), the present invention of claim 1 is obvious over Takahashi et al. and Aldermeshian et al.

However, in Takahashi et al., the PBX 3 determines whether a portable radio telephone equipment belongs to the own system or not, since the PBX 3 conducts accounting for portable radio telephone equipments which belong to the own system (the portable radio telephone equipment 5), and the public network 1 conducts accounting for portable radio telephone equipments which belong to another system (the portable radio telephone equipments 6, 7) (see column 8, lines 34-53 and column 9, lines 7-28). Therefore, if one tries to make the radio base station 4 have a function for registering portable radio telephone equipment and an accounting function instead of the PBX 3, one would have to make all the base stations have those functions.

The cost of providing this redundancy would be very high. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to cause the base stations to have those functions instead of the PBX 3.

Further, in Aldermeshian, although a base station (110 in Figure 1, 510 in Figure 5) stores an identification number in a memory 118, this is for enabling a call to be received not only by a cellular telephone 100, 501 but also by a base station 110,510 (see column4, lines 6-15 and lines 48-59). Aldermeshian does not decide whether a signal is to be transmitted to a cellular telephone or a carrier network based on this identification number.

Therefore, even if Takahashi and Aldermeshian are combined, one skilled in the art does not arrive the concept that in a base station, addresses of mobile stations that use the base station as a private network is registered in means for registering and managing, and whether a packet is to be transmitted to a mobile station or a carrier network is decided based on whether a terminating address of the packet is registered in the means for registering and managing.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 4th day of February, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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